make children susceptible to cancer; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avoid such threats?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exact etiology of cancer is still unknown. However, from time to time many factors such as heredity, age, virus, environmental pollution and occupations in chemical Industry have been incriminated as cause of cancer. Research in cancer is carried on by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Regional Cancer Centres in the country. Environmental pollution is being looked after by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry. To facilitate treatment of cancer, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been sanctioning Central assistance to various institutions @ Rs. 50,0000 per Centre for setting up of Early Cancer Detection Centres; and in the Seventh Five Year Plan stress is being laid on the imparting of education regarding this disease through primary and secondary prevention. Work on environmental and occupational carcinogenesis is also going on at the National Institute of Occupational Health (ICMR), Ahmedabad, as a part of their research programme.

Production of indigenous polio vaccine

1797. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in Hindustan Times of the 25th August, 1985 wherein it has been stated that an indigenous polio vaccine has successfully been developed by the State-owned Hafkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it will be made available for use by the general public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Bombay has developed an indigenous monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine Type I, II and III which has passed the critical tests as per WHO specifications conducted at the Corporation and the National Quality Control Laboratory at Central Research Institute, Kasauli. It is to be bended into Trivalent batch and tested again, after which the vaccine will be released for use.

Investigation into the missing ship M. V. Nitya Nanak

1798. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the life of missing ship M. V. Nitya Nanak's pyrotechnics system for giving distress signals to nearby vessels had expired in 1984, and that the Maini Shipping Co. had written to the relatives of the missing crew that M. V. Nitya Nanak's non-arrival at Madras was due to bad whether; and

(b) if so, what are the facts investigated so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) During the course of investigation under Section 360 of the Merchant Shipping Act by the Metropolitan Magistrate, it has been brought out that according to the records of safety equipment certificate which was issued to the ship M. V. Nitya Nanak on 31-3-1985 by Mercantile Marine Department, Tuticorin, the dates of

manufacture of the distress signals were:

	Date of Manufacture
1. Parachuit Rocket Signal	August 1981
2. Lifeboat Distress Rockets	February 1981
3. Lifeboat Flares	December 1984
4. Line Throwing Apparatus	September 1980

The Mercantile Marine Department, Tuticorin, while issuing the certificate recommended that these pyrotechnics be renewed at the earliest. However, this does not appear to have been done. Normally, these pyrotechnics are considered to be in good condition for a period of three years from the date fo manufacture. The matter is under investigation by the Metropolitan Magistrate.

It is confirmed that Maini Shipping Company had written to the relatives of the crew of M. V. Nitya Nanak that the vessel may have been delayed due to bad weather. This matter has also been the subject matter of investigation under Section 36C of Merchant Shipping Act.

Ban on recruitment in Railways

1799. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed a ban on recruitment in Railways in view of impending new phase of computerisation; and

(b) if so, what is the net reduction of staff effected during 1975—85?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No ban on recruitment due to impending computerisation has been imposed.

(b) Does not arise.

Accident of the Air India's Jumbo on Bangkok-Hongkong route

1800. SHRI KISHORE MEHTA:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that parts of an Air India jumbo jet fell into a field shortly after it took off from Bangkok for Hongkong and the plane was grounded in Hongkong for repairs;

(b) whether any enquiry has been ordered into the matter; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. Parts of the cowling of one engine fell off without causing any operational problem to the aircraft. The engine was replaced in Hongkong.

(b) and (c) The incident is under investigation.

Retrenchment of cargo handling workers at Paradip Port

1801. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Chairman of Paradip Port Trust arbitrarily introduced mechanical system in coal loading in Paradip Port on the 8th October, 1985, which was being done by unlisted cargo-handling workers since long through C&F Agents Stevedores;

(b) whether the introduction of mechanical system has thrown out of job about 1550 unlisted cargo handling workers.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Orissa advised the Chairman of the Paradeep Port